

REDUCE OVERDOSE. PRESCRIBE RESPONSIBLY.

OVERPRESCRIBING LEADS TO MORE ABUSE AND MORE OVERDOSE DEATHS.

4x increase in sales of prescription opioids since 1999.

In that same time more than

165,000
people have died
from overdose related to
prescription opioids.

REFER TO THE *CDC GUIDELINE FOR PRESCRIBING OPIOIDS FOR CHRONIC PAIN* FOR RESPONSIBLE PRESCRIBING OF THESE DRUGS¹.

1 USE NONOPIOID THERAPIES
Don't use opioids routinely for chronic pain. Use nonopioid therapies alone or in combination with opioids. Only consider opioid therapy if you expect benefits for pain and function to outweigh risks.

2 START LOW AND GO SLOW
When opioids are used, start with the lowest effective dosage and short-acting opioids instead of extended-release/long-acting opioids.

3 FOLLOW-UP
Regularly assess whether opioids are improving pain and function without causing harm. If benefits do not outweigh harms, optimize other therapies and work with patients to taper opioids.

¹Recommendations do not apply to pain management in the context of active cancer treatment, palliative care, and end-of-life care



**GUIDELINE FOR PRESCRIBING
OPIOIDS FOR CHRONIC PAIN**

LEARN MORE | www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/prescribing/guideline.html